

REMARKS

Preliminarily, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to return initialed Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) for the Information Disclosure Statement filed October 2, 2003. A replacement copy is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24-30 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent 6,663,687. Claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 00/15555 (WO '555).

In response, claim 15 has been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of claim 17, to thereby obviate the foregoing rejections. Claims 17, 20 and 23 have been canceled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections and allowance of claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24-30 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/675,955

Q77794

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Abraham J. Rosner
Registration No. 33,276

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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